

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014987

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1, 4-30 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 2, 3 received by this Authority on 05.10.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 4, 10, 12-14 as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11 received by this Authority on 05.10.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-26 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 2, 7, 8
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1, 3-6, 9-14</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1, 3-6, 9-14</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1, 3-6, 9-14</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>The invention set forth in claims 1 and 3 to 5 involves an inventive step in relation to the documents that are cited in the international search report. The documents in question do not disclose the feature wherein the "neutral position of the reverse shifter is set to a position that has been rotated further towards one side of the actuator rod than the vertical position, while the reverse position of said reverse shifter is set to a position that has been rotated further towards the other side of said actuator rod than the vertical position," and it would not have been easy for even a person skilled in the art to conceive of the feature in question.</p> <p>The invention set forth in claims 6 and 9 to 14 involves an inventive step in relation to the documents that are cited in the international search report. The documents in question do not disclose the feature wherein "during the shift operations for shifting into the second gear stage, the drive control means controls said actuator so that the shifter is in a position that has been rotated further towards the one side of the actuator rod than the vertical position when positioned at the neutral position of the second gear stage, while also controlling said actuator so that said shifter is in a</p>			

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Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

position that has been rotated further towards the other side of said actuator rod than the vertical position when positioned at the shifting position of the second gear stage," and it would not have been easy for even a person skilled in the art to conceive of the feature in question.